



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

## News Release

SBOH 04-05

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**Contact:** Craig McLaughlin, State Board of Health, (360) 556-6672

### Food Code, Hotel Rules the Subjects of Board Hearings

*Wed., September 8, 9 a.m.–4:15 p.m., Marcus Whitman Hotel, Six West Rose, Walla Walla*

A public hearing on proposed revisions to Chapter 246-215 WAC, Food Service will be held at the Washington State Board of Health meeting at 10:30 a.m., September 8, at the Marcus Whitman Hotel, 6 West Rose, Walla Walla. At 2 p.m. in the same location, the Board will hold a public hearing on proposed revisions to Chapter 246-260 WAC, Transient Accommodations.

The Board's food service rules apply to many types of retail operations, including restaurants, cafeterias, taverns, supermarkets, meat markets, retail bakeries, caterers, mobile units, and food vendors at community fairs. They also apply to many operations where food service is a secondary part of the operation, including hospitals, nursing homes, schools, jails, child care centers, and bed-and-breakfast inns. An estimated 29,000 permanent food establishments and 7,000 temporary food establishments in Washington are licensed annually under these rules by local health agencies. About 5,800 health-care and residential-care facilities licensed by state agencies also must meet these rules.

This is the first major revision of Washington's food service rules since 1992. The revision would adopt the current edition of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Code, with some modifications. It reflects statewide input from food-safety stakeholders who participated in 42 advisory workgroups and 28 public workshops over a two-year period.

The Board's transient accommodations rules establish health and safety standards for roughly 1,800 hotels, motels and other facilities in the state that provide overnight lodging to travelers and other transient guests. The hearing on proposed revisions to the transient accommodations rule was continued from July 14 to consider comments received from the lodging industry.

The Board will hear recommendations about whether to establish a specific section of the transient accommodations rule for homeless shelters, which fall under the legal definition of a transient accommodation.

Members of the Walla Walla Board of County Commissioners, which also serves as the county's Board of Health, will be present in the morning to discuss local public health concerns with the State Board.

In the afternoon, the Board will hear a presentation about Food, Fitness and Our Kids, a series of community forums held around the state. These forums provide opportunities for local communities to discuss the far-reaching consequences of children's inactivity and poor nutrition and to explore ways school policies and practices can make it easier for children to choose health-promoting foods, be physically active, and be ready to learn at school. Partners in this effort include the Washington State School Directors' Association, the Department of Health, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the UW Center for Public Health Nutrition, the Washington State Parent Teacher Association, the Washington School Food Service Association and local health jurisdictions in five counties (Benton-Franklin, Clark, Island, King, and Pierce).

Copies of the agenda, proposed rule language, presentations and related materials are available by visiting the Board's Web site at <http://www.sboh.wa.gov/>. The emergency and press contact number for the Board during the meeting is (360) 701-2398.

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<p>The State Board of Health serves the citizens of Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. Established in 1889 by the State Constitution, the Board provides leadership by suggesting public health policies and actions, by regulating certain activities, and by providing a public forum. The governor appoints ten members who fill three-year terms. Visit the board's Web site at <a href="http://www.sboh.wa.gov">www.sboh.wa.gov</a>.</p>
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